

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 06950 201658Z

65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01 SY-05

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R 201323Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9655

INFO USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, JO, XF

SUBJECT: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL
TERRORIST ATTACK

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: DEATH NOV 18 OF ONE OF HOTEL
GUESTS WOUNDED IN NOV 16 ATTACK BROUGHT TOTAL
FATALITY TOLL OF OPERATION--INCLUDING TERRORISTS AND
SOLDIERS--TO EIGHT. KAMAL ABDUL JABER, DIRECTOR-GENERAL
OF BANK OF ALEXANDRIA, WAS LATEST VICTIM. PRESS ANNOUNCED
THAT KING HUSSEIN SENT CONDOLENCES TO PRESIDENT SADAT ON
DEATH OF JABER, AND HE INSTRUCTED JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR
IN CAIRO TO VISIT JABER FAMILY.

2. IN STATEMENT TO GOJ-CONNECTED AR-RAYY NEWSPAPER.
PRIME MINISTER BADRAN NOV 19 DECOUNCED PLANNERS AND
PERPETRATORS OF ATTACK "WHOSE PRIMARY AIM IS THAT OF
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PAGE 02 AMMAN 06950 201658Z

CRUSHING ARAB SOLIDARITY." BADRAN DREW CONNECTION

BETWEEN RETURN OF CALM TO BEIRUT AND ATTACK IN AMMAN, CLAIMING THAT PLOTTERS HAD CONSCIOUSLY TARGETTED AMMAN AS PART OF PLAN TO FOMENT DISTURBANCES THROUGHOUT ARAB WORLD. BADRAN ADDED THAT GOJ INVESTIGATION HAD UNCOVERED IDENTITY OF SABOTEURS, AND STATED THAT JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT WILL STRIKE WITH IRON HAND ANYONE WHO ATTEMPTS TO DISTURB SECURITY OF COUNTRY.

3. IN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "OUTLAWS, NOT ARABS," ENGLISH-LANGUAGE JORDAN TIMES NOV 19 COMPARED MINDLESSNESS OF INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL ATTACK WITH THAT ON SEMIRAMIS HOTEL AND "OTHER ATTACKS DURING PAST YEARS AGAINST INNOCENT CIVILIANS, DIPLOMATS, OR AIRLINE PASSENGERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, WHICH ARE CRIMINAL AND FUTILE." NOTING THAT PERPETRATORS HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF BEING MEMBERS OF PALESTINIAN SPLINTER GROUP BASED IN IRAQ, EDITORIAL CALLED ON MAINSTREAM OF LEGITIMATE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND ITS RESISTANCE ORGANS "TO MAKE IT KNOWN CLEARLY AND UNAMBIGUOUSLY TO THE WORLD THAT THIS SORT OF RAID IS NOT THE WORK OF PALESTINIANS WHO ARE SEEKING...THE RESTORATION OF THEIR NATIONAL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS. IT IS NOT ENOUGH FOR THE PLO AND ITS MAIN GROUPS SIMPLY TO ISSUE STATEMENTS OF NON-INVOLVEMENT WHENEVER THIS SORT OF RAID IS ATTEMPTED BY POCKETS OF CRIMINALS IN THE ARAB WORLD..." EDITORIAL ADDED THAT PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT IS DEGRADED BY THIS TYPE OF ATTACK. "WE SHOULD BE WELL PAST THE STAGE WHERE ANY TRIGGER-HAPPY DREAMER CAN SHOOT PEOPLE DEAD AND CLAIM TO HAVE DONE SO IN THE NAME OF THE PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT."

4. IN HARMONY WITH EDITORIALS, COMMANDER OF PALESTINE LIBERATION ARMY UNIT STATIONED IN JORDAN, COL NIHAD NUSEIBEH, SENT PUBLIC CABLE TO KING HUSSEIN IN WHICH HE DENOUNCED HOTEL RAID. NUSEIBEH CLAIMED THAT ATTACK FAILED TO ACHIEVE ITS AIM, WHICH WAS TO SOW DISSENSION BETWEEN PEOPLES OF EAST AND WEST BANKS.

5. KING HUSSEIN (ACCOMPANIED BY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES LTG BIN SHAKER) AND PRINCE HASSAN NOV 19 SEPARATELY VISITED HOME TOWNS OF TWO SPECIAL FORCES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 AMMAN 06950 201658Z

SOLDIERS KILLED IN ATTACK TO EXPRESS CONDOLENCES. NOV 17 FUNERALS OF TWO DEAD WERE FEATURED IN PRESS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

6. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: UNQUALIFIED PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY GOJ LEADERS, COMBINED WITH OBVIOUS LEAKS TO PRESS, SUGGEST THAT KING HAS DECIDED TO PLACE BLAME WHERE IT IS DUE REGARDLESS OF POSSIBLE EXPOSURE

TO CHARGES FROM RADICAL ARABS OF UNDERMINING ARAB
UNITY. HE SEEMS ASSURED MOST ARAB STATES IN POST-
RIYADH/CAIRO CONTEXT SUPPORT HIS STRONG WORDS. KING
APPEARS TO HAVE NO LACK OF LOCAL SUPPORT; JORDANIAN
REACTION TO GOJ ACTION AGAINST TERRORISTS IN HOTEL
REMAINS FAVORABLE.
PICKERING

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